



*Office of the Vice President  
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July 29, 2013

The Honorable Jay Rockefeller  
Chairman  
Committee on Commerce, Science, and  
Transportation  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Thune  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Commerce, Science, and  
Transportation  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Rockefeller and Ranking Member Thune:

IBM is pleased to support S. 1353, The Cybersecurity Act of 2013. We appreciate your leadership in introducing this bipartisan, common-sense approach to the nation's cybersecurity challenges.

Your legislation will help to set innovation as the cornerstone of U.S. cybersecurity policy by supporting the role of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in facilitating the development of voluntary, industry-led standards and best practices to reduce cyber risks to critical infrastructure.

The current cyber-threat environment evolves in real time and requires a continuous, complex, and layered approach to security that varies greatly across industry sectors. Many of the cyber threats faced by our clients differ greatly, change daily, and cannot be solved by an externally imposed set of common responses. Therefore, IBM is particularly supportive of the provisions within S. 1353 that support the creation of a flexible, technology neutral cybersecurity framework. As the framework is developed, it is essential that the standards remain flexible and voluntary as required by the bill, rather than be transformed by regulatory agencies into a rigid, check-the-box compliance regime.

We also appreciate the efforts of the Commerce Committee to improve and deepen federal R&D efforts in cybersecurity. IBM supported similar bills that passed the House earlier this year (H.R. 756 and H.R. 967). IBM believes other legislation is still needed to promote information sharing on cyber threats between government and private sector entities, with appropriate legal liability protections and privacy safeguards. We supported H.R. 624, the Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act, and urge the Senate to pass this legislation.

Again, thank you for your leadership on this vital issue. We look forward to working with you to support S. 1353 as it advances through legislative process.

Sincerely,

Christopher A. Padilla  
Vice President, Governmental Programs  
IBM